Dear Parents,

We welcome back Carmel Maguire on Monday. It sounds like she has had an amazing overseas trip which I am sure she will fill you all in on her adventures.

I would like to thank the St Monica’s School Community for supporting me in the role over the last 6 weeks. It has been a busy time with us celebrating the many learning areas across the school. It has been a privilege to lead the community and be in a position to connect with more families and students. In saying that, I do miss being in the classroom and am looking forward to jumping back into my role as Assistant Principal where I still get to teach various classes across the school.

It was such a fun time up in the hall today to celebrate our first ‘St Monica’s Got Talent’. Some very talented students across the school. Thanks to Ms Amanda Stewart for organising this event.

Next week is Literacy and Numeracy Week. Students will participate in various activities on top of their normal programs throughout the week. We invite you to attend our ‘Open Classroom’ event throughout the week.

Monday 29 August – Kindergarten – 9.15-10.15
Tuesday 30 August – Year 1 – 9.15-10.15
Wednesday 31 August – Year 2 – 9.15-10.15
Thursday 1 September – Year 5/6 – 11.30-12.30
Friday 2 September – Year 3/4 – 9.15-10.15

Once again, thank you for the last 6 weeks. It has been a fun experience (I must say I am a little bit tired).

Prayers

Please keep all those in our community in your prayers who are in need at this time. Also, please keep all those across the world who are suffering or in pain in your prayer.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Patrick Ellis
Acting Principal
Confirmation

Next Wednesday 31 August Year 6 will be participating in the Confirmation Preparation Day. This is a wonderful day, bringing all Year 6 children, Candidates and their Peers, to celebrate the journey they have all been on and to prepare for the Sacrament. Fr Tony Percy will visit with the children before lunch to talk to them before the Sacrament. Thank you to those families who have sent in the White Confirmation Card details. If you have not yet done this, please send it in as soon as possible.

I have been receiving the special Sponsor letters this week. We would like all of the letters by next Friday 2 September. We would like to give them to the children on Wednesday 7 September, the day of Confirmation.

St Monica’s Feast Day

Tomorrow is our School’s St Monica’s Feast Day Celebration. At school we will be celebrating the feast day with a Whole School Mass at 9:30 am. All are welcome to come and celebrate with us!

We will continue to focus on how St Monica used the power of prayer in her life. During the week classes will be decorating class prayer boxes. These prayer boxes will be taken home by the children from Week 7 as a way to deepen family prayer. Inside each box will be a small prayer cloth, cross, battery tea light and some prayer cards. When your child brings home the prayer box, you might like to use it to say a prayer giving thanks for a meal or a before bed prayer. If your family has a special prayer that you like to say or you find a prayer you like or even make a pray, please add it to the prayer box! What a great collection of prayers we will have!

Another way we will be following St Monica’s example, is by starting a St Monica’s Prayer Wall. This wall is located next to the ‘Year of Mercy’ and Values wall near Year 2. There will be different prayer focus’ and will be an opportunity to offer any special prayers we might have. Your family might like to write a prayer and pin it on the prayer wall or send it in via the prayer box.

The week will end with the Whole School Mass and buddy activity after mass. At Recess the children will stay with their buddies for a special morning tea. Each child will receive a piece of chocolate cake.

Confirmation strengthens us to defend the faith and to spread the Gospel courageously

Pope Francis

Sacrament of Confirmation Dates to Remember
Preparation Day: Wednesday 31 August
Sacrament of Confirmation: Wednesday 7 September 6pm

Save the Date:
St Monica’s Parish will celebrate St Monica’s Feast Day Sunday 28 August at the 10am Mass followed by a multicultural morning tea in St Monica’s school hall.

A reminder that St Monica’s Feast Day Mass is occurring this Sunday 28 August at 10am. All families are welcome to attend. Thank you to the families who have offered to assist at Mass. Miss Rheinberger will contact you tomorrow with details.

Prayer Boxes

This week as part of our school celebrations for St Monica’s Day, each class was given a prayer box. Inside the prayer box are tools to help you pray – a battery operated candle, cloth, cross, and some prayer cards with traditional prayers on them. On Friday at the mass, Fr Loi will bless our boxes. These little boxes will be brought home by the children to strengthen the connection between home and school in relation to prayer. Prayer can be a wonderful time for the family to come together and talk to God. There are many ways your family can use the prayer box.

Some suggestions are:

• Encourage your child to set up a prayer space for before dinner. Your family could give thanks for the lovely food you have to eat and for the people who prepared it.
• Your family might like to say a prayer before going to bed. What a lovely way to end the day by giving thanks to God for a great day!
• Allow your child to show you how they would like to set the prayer box up. We pray all the time at school and this will show your family what happens at school.

Remember, there is no wrong way to pray. Take it slow and make it work with your family. You might like to write a prayer that your family likes to pray and pop it into the box. Your family might have a special intention that you would like to add to our school Prayer Wall. Pop it into the box and ask your child to pin it to the Prayer Wall.

The Prayer Wall is another way we are strengthening our prayer at St Monica’s. It is located near 2L, facing the door to the centre courtyard. We can offer up our special intentions and pray for different reasons, reflecting what is happening at our school.

Haley Stonham
Acting Religious Education Coordinator
**Catch a Reader Display**

Step 1: Take a photo of yourself or someone else reading in the most unusual or inspiring place.
Step 2: Email your photo to Mrs Hind @ rachael.hind@cg.catholic.edu.au
Step 3: Check out the display!

**KidsMatter**

**Resolving Conflict: Suggestions for families**

The skills needed for resolving conflict effectively are complex. They involve managing feelings, understanding others, communicating effectively, developing options and making decisions. Parents can play an important role in helping children resolve conflicts. You can also provide positive guidance that teaches children the skills needed to resolve conflicts effectively.

**Set the scene for cooperation**

Show how to cooperate and respect others through your own approach. Ask children to help solve the conflict and express confidence that they can work it out cooperatively.

**Help children handle emotions**

Children may need encouragement and help to stay cool in a conflict, especially if they feel they are being accused or blamed. They may feel anxious and need support to stay calm if they feel intimidated. Taking time to calm down can help children overcome the tendency to react aggressively or withdraw from the situation.

**Encourage empathy and respect for others**

Teach children to listen to and understand the needs and concerns of the other person. Help them to ask why the other person wants something and consider what it might be like to be ‘in their shoes’.

**Practice communication skills**

Effective conflict resolution relies on clear communication of feelings and wants. This can be especially difficult when under pressure in a conflict. Learning to speak clearly and respectfully takes practice.

**Encourage creative solutions**

In conflicts people often get stuck in their own positions and can’t see other options. This is why it is so important to get creativity going when thinking of possible solutions. It’s okay for adults to help children think of alternative solutions if it helps them to get creative.

**When enough is enough**

Some conflicts are too big for children to work out. Sometimes children are not ready to sort them out and the conflict continues to escalate. If children’s conflicts become very intense or lead to physical aggression, then it is important for an adult to step in.

Information from www.kidsmatter.edu.au

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**Vacation Care - SMOOSH**

Vacation Care bookings for the September/October school holiday program are now open. For this round of bookings we are strongly encouraging families to book via our Qkr App.

**Father's Day – Kindergarten**

Dear Kinder Dads

To make your FATHER’S DAY even more special, your Kinder child would love you to visit their classroom on **Friday 2 September** to spend some precious Daddy time together. They would love to share what they have been doing in class and give you some extra reasons (as if you need any) to be very proud of them. Keep an eye out for your invitation in your child’s school bag. Come along anytime between 8:30am and 9:15am. We will be eager to welcome you. - The Kinder Teachers and Students

**Father's Day Stall**

Show your Dad (or someone special) how much you love him this Father’s Day. Find the perfect gift at the Father’s Day stall. The stall will be held on Friday 2 September set up outside the Canteen in courtyard from 9.30am onwards. All gifts between $2 - $8. If you are able to help on the stall for an hour or two in the morning please contact Michelle Bowman on 0416162543.

**School Fees**

A reminder to families that Term 3 school fees are due this **Friday 26 August**. Please make every effort to ensure fees are paid on time. Families on Direct Debit arrangements please ensure your scheduled amount is sufficient to cover the fees in full by the end of this year.

**Changes to School Bus Services – Monday 29 August 2016**

On Monday 29 August ACTION will be introducing a revised timetable for some school services. This information is now available on the Transport Canberra Website – transport.act.gov.au

Affected routes include:
- Route 410 – this service will finish 3 minutes earlier at 4.01pm.
- Route 461 – this service will finish 2 minutes earlier at 3.36pm.
- Route 691 – this service will finish 2 minutes earlier at 3.40pm.

For further information please visit the Transport Canberra website or call 13 17 10.

**St Monica’s Chess Tournament**

St Monica’s will be holding a chess tournament for all interested players on Friday 9 September. The tournament will run for the entire day breaking for recess, lunch and Assembly. Please note entries are due back by 7 September. There will be no cost to enter. Forms are available from the App or Mrs Hind.

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National Science Week
Thank you to all the children and their families who made a Robot, Droid or Drone. The display is looking tech-tastic! I know that all the children from K-6 had a fun day dressing up and investigating, hypothesising and creating. There were many science and technology activities happening around the school including, making movies using Green Screen Technology, making edible sherbet, seeing if the ‘mm’s from the ‘mm’s could float off the candy, using technology to create a working circuit and planting seeds! We have all learnt a lot – congratulations on a successful Science Week celebration!

K-4 Talent Quest
Congratulations to all the students who participate in the first ever St Monica’s Got Talent! It was fantastic to see so many clever and talented students who were able to share their talents with the whole school. We had 30 students in our final and over 100 students compete at class level, which is an amazing effort. Thankyou to Ms Stewart for your ideas and organisations and to our judges, Mr McFadden and Miss Mahoney, you had a very hard job! We are looking forward to making this an annual event, so start practising for next year!

School Read-a-thon
Thank you to everyone who has started collecting sponsors to help us reach our $14000 target. We currently have just over $4000 in donations so keep working hard everybody! Cash and Qkr! payments have also started coming in which is wonderful. We have over 60 students who have set up their personal pages online. There is still time to set up your personal fundraising page at www.readathon.com.au

Our reading period has started and runs for Weeks 6 & 7. Students will be reading for at least 20 minutes a day at school and we are asking that they read for at least 10 minutes a day at home. If you need a new sponsorship booklet these can be found on the notes stand at the Front Office and also in the Library by request. Please return sponsorship money and prize selection to the school by 2 September 2016.

Book Week Parade
Yesterday we held a most magnificent Book Week Parade, characters from stories new and old stopped by to join the celebration. Pippi Longstocking, Captain Underpants, several Very Hungry Caterpillars, even some Green Sheep and Little Bo Peep were seen amongst the audience. Congratulations to all of our participants and to you their very creative parents! We all enjoyed watching as each new set of characters were revealed. Many thanks also to Mrs Hind and Miss Brown who have coordinated a fabulous series of activities for Book Week 2016.

Literacy and Numeracy Week
In Week 7, we are celebrating Literacy and Numeracy Week at St Monica’s. We would like to invite family members to share and celebrate the wonderful learning that occurs at St. Monica’s by asking that you come along to our open classrooms during the following times.

Monday 29 August – Kindergarten – 9.15-10.15
Tuesday 30 August – Year 1 – 9.15-10.15
Wednesday 31 August – Year 2 – 9.15-10.15
Thursday 1 September – Year 5/6 – 11.30-12.30
Friday 2 September – Year 3/4 - 9.15-10.15

During the week classes will be participating in a few special activities during literacy and numeracy learning time.

LITERACY EVENTS:
- Six Word Stories - teachers and students will be exploring just six words can make a story.
- Read Alouds - teachers, students and parents will be invited to read aloud their favourite book.
- Publication Celebration – students have an opportunity to share their published work with their friends, buddies and families during the open classroom time.
- Reading Displays - You might like to take a look at our fabulous reading displays. Students and parents have been invited to send in a photo for our ‘Catch a Reader display’. We also have a ‘Teacher’s Read too!’ reading display. These are located in our main corridor.
- Read for Australia - is a National Simultaneous Reading event that will occur on Friday 2 September in class. The 2016 ‘Read for Australia’ book is My Two Blankets, written by Irena Kobald and illustrated by Freya Blackwood. It was the Winner of the 2015 Children’s Book Council Award for Picture Books.
- Poem in your pocket - Students are encouraged to write a poem to keep in their pocket which can be shared with family and friends during National Literacy and Numeracy Week.
- Tony Bones Book Week Show 1 September
- The Great Book Swap - in Week 8 we will be holding this event. All funds raised go to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and it encourages students to swap one of their favourite books for someone else’s for a gold coin donation.
- Don’t forget our Read-a-thon is happening! Our reading period is Week 6 & 7 and students are collecting sponsors to raise funds for our school.
- Kinder Reading hour will be held on Thursday 25 August in the Library after school. Come and share some books and puzzles with your parent/s.
NUMERACY EVENTS:
- Catch-an-Idea will be a chance to catch a maths moment! Whether you’re indoors or outside, looking at patterns or playing sports, in the kitchen or in outer space; maths helps make sense of the world! Students photograph a mathematics moment, caption it and share it (digitally or as a poster around the school). For example, take a photo of someone measuring ingredients, tiling a roof or a football player kicking a goal. Math is everywhere.
- Who won it? uses statistics in sport as a means of exploring data analysis.
- Which way? comprises four spatial activities focusing on directional language.
- Thinkers are Winners is a series of strategy games to help develop logical thought, mathematical reasoning and the ability to explain thought processes.
- Maths Morning with Parents –parents are invited to come in and play some number activities with the students.

It would be great to see you during this special week.

_Bridgette McCann – Literacy Coordinator

Cerryanne Kelly – Numeracy Coordinator

**Great Book Swap**

After running our very first St Monica’s Great Book Swap last year so well, we are doing it again! The SRC are asking students to help make this year’s Great Book Swap a success by donating a book that they love but can bear to part with.

*Wednesday 7 September*, is Indigenous Literacy Day and we will be holding the Great Book Swap. For a gold coin donation, the students will attend the book swap and choose a book to take home. When donating a book please consider the following. It needs to be:
- In a good state (no rips or tears)
- An appropriate book for students in primary school to read

Once you have found a book that you love and are willing to donate please deliver your book to the trolleys in the corridor between the library and Year 5 classrooms. All funds raised will be sent to ILF (Indigenous Literacy Foundation). The Foundation will use these funds to provide books to Indigenous children and families in remote communities. To find out more about the fantastic work of the ILF you can watch this short video. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wJ8OcUXubi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wJ8OcUXubi)

Thank you for your continued support.

**Community Council Email Address**

_Council Email Address_ – this was established to allow parents to let us know areas of concern that they feel need addressing. As a Community Council we can only represent you if we know what is on your mind and as many of the council and you work, this address is just another avenue of contact. Council.StMonicas@cg.catholic.edu.au

The email will be checked regularly by Evelyn David - Hoole, Council Executive Secretary.

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**Working Bee – Front Gardens – Saturday 3 September**

A group of parents and teachers have been busy this year drafting some preliminary plans for the school’s gardens and outdoor spaces, with input from Kathryn Scobie from “Good Food Gardens”. The first area to improve will be at the front of the school around the hall car-park.

We are going to start the planting, digging and mulching on Saturday 3 September and it would be great to get as many helpers as we can to "make light work" of the task. Families will also have the chance to "adopt a tree" that will go into the garden, and families can help plant their tree on the day - more details to follow. So please pencil the 3 September into your diaries!

_Caroline Weller from the Garden Team_

**Music News**

Congratulations to all the music students who participated in the Miles Franklin Music Festival the weekend before last - Mary D-H (2S), Hannah D-H (4W), Annie W (4W), Millie W (4C) Charlie O (5E) and Elena S (6S). They all played beautifully and confidently. Well done!!

**Awards:**
- 2nd Place - Charlie O - Guitar Solo
- 3rd Place - Elena S - Piano Solo (11 years), Charlie O - Piano Solo (10 years), Hannah D-H - Piano Solo (9 years)
- Hannah D-H and Mary D-H - Piano Duet
**AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Whole School Prayer – Wednesday 31 August led by 1V at 2.30pm (Weeks 4, 5 and 6 Value Awards presented)

No School Assembly tomorrow due to St Monica’s Feast Day

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**Value Award – Stewardship**

- KS: Eamon F
- KMR: Cameron H
- KRG: Luca C
- 1V: Archie S
- 1B: Scarlett B
- 1OH: Samantha S
- 2L: Madeline H
- 2S: Peter M
- 2D: TBA
- 3R: Yaroslava K
- 3D: Ruby S
- 3/4RG: Riley H
- 4C: Daniel E
- 4W: Brooke M
- 5K: Leo D
- 5E: Charlotte W
- 5/6M: Josh C
- 6M: Adrian M
- 6S: Dylan R

**Class Award – Teacher Choice**

- Emilia H
- Jessica Mc
- Violet P
- Paddy P
- Connor K
- Alex C
- Charlize S
- James Mc
- TBA
- Emma B
- Katie R
- Natalie L
- Zara D
- Sophie H
- Ellen C
- Charlotte J
- Ryan G
- Dominic W
- Paige S

**M&M Star Medallions** – Anthony M (1OH), Ruby S (3D), Georgia M (4C)

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**SPORTING NEWS**

Congratulations to **Ben Mc (6S) & Sam P (6S)** who have been selected in the team for this year’s National Championships to be held in Coff’s Harbor in Mid-October; 14, 15 & 16.

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**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**Interested in Playing Softball?**

Any children interested in playing Softball (and teeball) in the coming Summer competition – Saturday mornings during Term 4 (2016) and Term 1 (2017). For more information please contact Mr Fletcher at school or mobile 0438 303 460.

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**The Roster for Term 3, Week 7**

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<td><strong>MONDAY</strong></td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
<td>Evelyn David-Hoole</td>
<td>Evelyn David-Hoole</td>
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<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
<td>June Manning</td>
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<td>Anne Carew</td>
<td>Anne Carew</td>
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<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
<td>Samantha Cox</td>
<td>Wendy Regan</td>
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<td>Tracy D’Ambrosio</td>
<td>Alissa Kilpatrick</td>
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Flexi Schools online ordering system is available for placing lunch orders.

**Friday Lunch Orders only available via Flexi Schools ordering due to availability of helpers.**

Thank you

**Samantha Manning** - Canteen Manager - 6258 4687

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**ON BEHALF OF WODEN VALLEY YOUTH CHOIR**

On behalf of Woden Valley Youth Choir and its Artistic Director, Alpha Gregory, we have great pleasure in inviting you and your friends, to our Annual Concert. “Applause! Applause!”

**DATE:** Saturday 17 September

**TIME:** 7:30pm

**VENUE:** TIM MURRAY THEATRE, Canberra Grammar School, MONARO CRESCENT, RED HILL

**TICKETING:** Adults: $25, Children U/12 and Concession: $20, Families: $80 (2 adults 2 children/concession) Bookings can be made through:

- https://www.trybooking.com/MLTI
- https://www.trybooking.com/218850